intelligence gathering capabilities of the existing agencies under the Department of Revenue, identifying the organised economic offenders and individuals operating on large scale, preparing dossiers and planning and coordinating strike action by all the concerned agencies. Besides giving directional control to the investigating agencies within the Department of Revenue in such cases, the Bureau would be responsible for maintaining liaison with the concerned Departments and Didectorates both at the Centre and State Government level.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Sir, the tax evasion and economic offences are as bad as offences relating to sedition and the people involved in the crimes are so big sharks that it involves a complex process of detection. So, in this context, I would like to know from the Minister whether it will not be convenient to set up a permanent and independent body to go into the whole process of detection and also establish a separate judicial set up for taking stock of the offending crimes.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, this Bureau has been set up precisely for this, for dealing with these sharks and one of its assignments is to concentrate on this

So far as the question of setting up an independent body is concerned, I do not think, it will help. This is a body of the Government. We have assigned this duty to it. As far as the judicial system is concerned, certainly, after we detect them, we consign them to the judicial system.

*126. [*The questioner (Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav) was absent for answer.* vide col. ... infra.]

Blackmarketing in Banks in new Currency Notes

*127. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:†
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant blackmarketing in new currency notes, particularly of Rs. 1 denomination, issued by the bank employees at a premium; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken to check such malpractices in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There is a shortage of coins and small denomination notes and measures are being taken to increase production and availability. As per available information there is no black-marketing in the issue of notes by bank employees. A specific complaint against a particular branch manager was received sometime back and investigated. The complaint was not substantiated. It will be ensured that strictest action is taken against employees who are found to be indulging in malpractices.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चंडीगढ़ में स्थित 8 बैंक्स स्टेट बैंक आफ इंडिया स्टेट बैंक आफ पटियाला, सेन्ट्रल बैंक, पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, पंजाब एंड सिंध बैंक, इलाहाबाद बैंक, आदि बैंकों को रेगुलरली नियमित रूप से रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया छोटे नोट्स सप्लाई करता रहा है, इशू करता रहा है तो क्या वहां से कोई उनकी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई है कि केवल बड़े

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Virendra Verma.

आदमियों को ही रेजगारी दी जाती है और जो गरीब आदमियों को यह रेजगारी मिलनी चाहिए वह उनको नहीं मिलती है और अगर किसी को मिलती है तो उन्हें 50 फीसदी लौटाने की शर्त पर दी जाती है ? दूसरे क्या यह भी उनके इल्म में है कि बैंक स्टाफ और बैंक यूनियन लीडर्स बल्क में उनको ले लेते हैं और वे नोट्स की गड्डी की गड्डी ब्लैक मार्किट में बिकती है ? क्या यह बात उनकी नोटिस में आई है ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, so far as the case which has been mentioned by the hon. Member is concerned, we do not have the information. But one complaint has been received by us. We made an enquiry, about the involvement of a bank employee.

SHRI VEERENDRA VERMA: Have you received any complaint from Chandigarh? I have mentioned eight banks in Chandigarh.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: In the complaint we received, involvement of the bank employee was not established. So far as the complaint which the hon. Member has made—Chandigarh—is concerned, we have not received it. But since the hon. Member has brought it to our notice, we will look into it and if there is any involvement of any bank employee, definitely, action will be taken.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को इल्म है, जानकारी है कि यह त्यौहारों का और शादियों का समय है और 51 रुपये की एक एक रुपये की माला 75 रुपये में बेची जा रही है ? दूसरे शार्टेज को दूर करने के लिए भारत ने पिछली बार विदेशों में छोटे काइन्स प्रिन्ट करा कर मंगाये जा रहें थे और कानून भी बना था देश में तो वह छोटे काइन्स देश में क्या रिसीव हो चुकें हैं ? यदि नहीं तो कब तक और किस मात्रा में रिसीव होंगे यह बताने की कृपा करें ?

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : लास्ट सेशन में ही इसका जवाब दे दिया गया था ।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, last week, we have given the reply. Here, I would like to add to the benefit of the hon. Member about the position of notes. The demand which has been made by the Reserve Bank of India is for the supply of one thousand million pieces of one rupee. As against that, our production capacity is 500 million. So far as the shortage of one rupee coins is concerned, in order to make up this shortage, we are going to import one thousand million pieces of coins. Also we have asked our own mint to increase production by 250 million pieces. Regarding the question relating to import, production and supply, that has already been answered in the House. Details have also been given not only here but in Lok Sabha also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The practice of studding garlands with the currency notes goes unabated in the country. It is a very important contributory factor to the existence of blackmarketing in new currency notes. Whereas, on the other hand, what the people get from the bundles of soiled currency notes even in the denomination of Rs. 5 and Rs 10 I would like to know, what steps are being taken to cure the malpractice which I referred to in my first part of the question and what directions have been issued to the banks to see that the soiled currency notes which they receive from the customers are not dold out again?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, it has been brought to the notice of the Government that currency notes are being used in garlands at the time of marriage and other occasions. It is a custom that it is better to have more supply to meet the demand. We are taking steps in that direction to overcome

the shortage. As the hon. Members know, we are not only importing coins but also going to set up a currency note press and also we have decided to set up a mint at Noida. The existing mints are also being modernised. About 22 presses have been set up in mints.

We have also taken steps to increase the working hours. So far as the 3 mints are concerned, we have already taken a decision to increase the working hours to 60. In some of the presses we have been worknig for 66 hours per week. These are the steps we have taken to improve the production and also to meet the demand.

Coming to the second question about soiled notes. If some of the soiled notes are in such a condition that they can be recirculated they are being put to recirculation because of the shortage We are doing it where it is absolutely necessary. In other cases recirculation is not done.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, earlier the practice was that soiled currency notes were taken by the State Bank or the Reserve Bank or big nationalised banks. Now these banks have stopped accepting these soiled notes and this is causing a great inconvenience.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: There is the instruction to receive notes. If any complaint is brought to the notice of the Government definitely we will take action:

Ship-breaking Yard at Alang, Gujarat

†*128. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has drawn the Central Government's attention to the problems faced by the Ship-breaking Yard at Alang in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present capacity of the Yard is to break about 200 ships per year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to allot only 60 ships in a year to the Yard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand from the ship-breakers and the Gujarat Government has urged the Central Government that enough ships be allotted to the Yard; and

(e) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take to allot more ships to the Yard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the assessment of the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation, the annual capacity of the Alang Ship-breaking yard is about 7 lakh Light Displacement Tonnes (LTD).

(c) For the 60 units at Alang, it has been decided to allot each unit one vessel of approximately 5000 LDT for the year 1985-86.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The number of ships imported for breaking during the year is based on the assessed gap in the availability and demand of re-rollables in the country. For the year 1985-86, 5 lakh LDT of foreign flag vessels are expected to be imported. These are equitably distributd among ship-braking units in the country.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the capacity of the Alang Ship-breaking yard is about 200 ships and the supply is only of 60 ships, that means the capacity of 30 per cent. In Alang

†Previously Starred Question 48, transferred from the 20th November, 1985.